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*Trudi Thompson*  
Trudi Thompson

PATENT

Applicant: **Williams et al.**  
Serial No.: **09/553223**  
Filed: **4/20/2000**  
Title: **A COMBINED RAPID ANTI-MICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY ASSAY & MICROORGANISM IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM**  
Group Art Unit: **1651**  
Examiner: **H. Gutman**  
Docket No.: **14598.34**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 17, 2001, Applicant responds as follows:

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**In the Claims**

Amend claims 22 and 26 as follows:

- a<sub>1</sub> 22. A method for simultaneously determining a microorganism's identify and susceptibility to an antimicrobial agent comprising the steps of:
- a. suspending and homogeneously mixing a volume of microorganism-containing sample into an aqueous medium to prepare an inoculum;
  - b. admixing said inoculum with growth supporting medium to form a test sample;
  - c. introducing a predetermined amount of said test sample into a first receptacle within a solid support;
  - d. introducing a predetermined amount of said test sample into a second receptacle within a solid support;
  - e. admixing a first assay reagent with the first sample in said first receptacle to form a homogenous suspension prior to conducting a first assay;